

A Journey from Pakistan to Canada

By Saira Hussain, age 10, British Columbia

My great Grandparents, Grandparents and my Dad have celebrated special days in their home country, Pakistan. Before immigrating into Canada, they had many special celebrations. The celebrations in Canada are slightly different because it is a multicultural country. Therefore, there are many religions and cultures in Canada which makes it diverse. On the other hand, Pakistan is strictly a Muslim country.

The biggest celebration in Pakistan is Eid-ul-Fitr. It is a festival celebrated after a month of fasting each day from sunrise to sunset. This is a religious holiday, so all schools, shops, stores and offices are closed. In Canada, it is not considered a religious holiday like Christmas. So many people cannot celebrate with family and friends as they had done in Pakistan. Eid-ul-fitr is a very joyous day which consists of gift giving, wearing new clothes, cooking lots of yummy foods and visiting all family and friends.

In Pakistan, Christmas is celebrated by a few, and it is a national holiday. It is a national holiday because the founder of Pakistan was also born on December 25. Muhammad Ali Jinnah is the founder of Pakistan. He was born on December 25, 1876. His birthday is always a national holiday in Pakistan. The Christians in Pakistan are free to celebrate Christmas as they wish. But the Pakistanis do not celebrate Christmas. In Canada, Muslims are free to celebrate Eid as they wish. Non-Muslims in Canada do not take part in the Eid celebrations.

Overall, there are a lot of similarities and differences in our celebrations. My great grandparents, still living today (so lucky to have great grandparents), my grandparents and my dad are so happy to be living in Canada. This is a county with many cultures and it is so diverse. Canada is full of freedom. We can celebrate religious holidays without being stopped. My family is proud to be a Pakistani-Canadian for 3 generations!!!